

# **2016 Palmetto State Football Tournament Rules**

## **Coach's Information**

1. The following rules and by-laws have been voted and agreed upon by the Palmetto Recreational Sports Association Board. These rules and by-laws will govern the Palmetto State Football play-off system.
2. All participating teams must be regular season teams. Departments with more than one team in an age division should perform an evaluation/draft so as not to create an "all-star" team. Departments who allow an individual to form the teams without an evaluation system are subject to termination in the Palmetto State Tournament. The departments who do an evaluation system and make an attempt to evenly distribute their players will not be subject to review by the Palmetto State Board. Departments may return returning players to the same team as the previous year but should attempt to evenly distribute new players among the teams so as not to create an imbalance.
3. Palmetto Association rules shall consist of the S.C. High School Rule Book and any other rules the Palmetto Board institutes, i.e. S.C.A.P., local league rules (Region II), etc.
4. Weight limits for players will be the same as S.C.A.P. and will be done according to S.C.A.P. Rules. Scale will be set at "0" for coach to see then set at the appropriate weight. Every player must weigh in before participating in a game regardless of size. Weigh-in will be 30 min. before game time. There will be no weigh-ins after the start of the second quarter, due to disruptions to staff attempting to run the game. No Exceptions! Late arriving players will be individually weighed by site Director/Asst. Director up to start of game. After the start of the first quarter, late players will advise site staff of their arrival and will sit out until the end of the first quarter. Player will then be weighed during the break of the quarters. For Region II – players will be weighed prior to first Tournament Game and then prior to the Championship game only.

Weight limit 7 -8 yr olds = 120lbs.    9-10 yr olds = 135lbs    11-12 yr olds = 150lbs

5. Each department will govern their own rules concerning individual playing time for their players. For Region II - Every player must play.
6. Because many departments do not have access to a 100 yard field, Palmetto playoff may be done on an 80 yard field with a minimum width of 115 feet. This will allow smaller departments which utilize baseball fields to host tournaments and thus, alleviate the problem of finding host sites. Host site must have scoreboard with clock. Goalposts will not be utilized during the playoffs. Every team must attempt a 2 pt conversion after each touchdown. If field is high school, play will utilize full field. In summary, playoffs and championship games may be played on either 80 or 100-yard field with minimum width of 115', whichever is available.

7 Gate fee charges will apply daily during playoffs in order to cover referee fees, etc.

Playoff games at Gwd, 96, WS, Abbeville and McCormick: 0-5 year olds = free Everyone else = \$2.00

State Championship Game Gate fee will be: 0-5 year olds = free 6-18 year olds = \$2.00 18up = \$3.00

8. Birth certificates will be provided by the Department to each host site as needed. Rosters will still be required for State playoffs. Coach should retain a copy of team roster at all times.

9. Awards for Regional/District Championships:  
Individual medals will be presented to Tournament Champions. (Football and Cheerleaders)  
Individual medals will be presented to Tournament runner up. (Football and Cheerleaders)

10. **Maximum number of football coaches/adults on sideline = 5 (4 coaches and a trainer).** Maximum number of cheerleading coaches/adults on sideline = 4 (3 coaches and a trainer). Only official photographers for newspapers or agency will be allowed on sideline and cannot give any verbal commands.
11. Any Palmetto rule without a clear/concise answer or meaning where on-site director cannot give answer should revert to High School rules or S.C.A.P. rules.
12. Jersey Numbers: Should follow high school rules. Every attempt should be made to follow high school guidelines to prevent confusion for the officials. Jersey #s should be high school numbered. Every effort should be made to conform to high school rules that pertain to jersey #s and positions.

**\*Addendum:** Per officials, if a receiver or tight-end is not wearing the correct jersey number, 1-49 or 80-99, the coach must inform the head official at game time. Failure to inform official will result in penalty according to high school rules. Violation: 10-yard penalty and loss of down (15-yard on regulation field).

**Players over the 7-8 120lbs, 9-10 135lbs or 11-12 150lbs weight limit:**

- a. Overweight players will wear numbers 70-79 only so they can be easily identified. NO OTHER players will wear numbers in this range. Players will not be allowed to play if they do not have a 70# jersey.
  - b. On Offense a maximum of 5 (five) overweight players will be allowed and they can only play positions of Tackle, Guard or Center.
  - c. On Defense a maximum of 5 (five) overweight players will be allowed. They can only play tackle to tackle and must assume a three or four point stance prior to the snap of the ball.
  - d. Players will be weighed before the first game and before the championship game. If a player is over the weight limit one game and under the next, they must change to an appropriate uniform number.
  - e. Overweight players CANNOT play on kick-off or kick-off return teams. Overweight players can participate on punt and punt return teams but must meet conditions stated concerning overweight players. Overweight player cannot be the punter due to conditions of running the ball if rushed.
  - f. An overweight player not in their stance at the time of the snap will be considered as "Delay of the game."
  - g. If an overweight player is caught playing in an ineligible position, there will be an unsportsmanlike penalty called and a warning given to the Head Coach. If it occurs a second time in the same game an unsportsmanlike penalty will again be called and the Head Coach will be ejected. This will continue with each penalty and then move to the next Asst. Coach in charge. A coach on the roster must be with the team on the sidelines at all times. If coaches are removed and no eligible coach is available then the game will be forfeited.
  - h. Overweight players cannot carry the ball. If they recover a fumble or intercept a pass it will be down at that spot. They cannot be in a receiver position.
  - i. If a team lines up in an unbalanced line/tackle eligible formation the player on each end of the line must be within the weight limit for that age group even if they do not report as a receiver and are considered a tackle by High School Rules.
  - j. For defensive alignment purposes the man on the end will be considered an end – and cannot be lined up with an overweight defensive tackle.
13. Games will consist of four (4) eight (8) minute quarters.
  14. **Each team has three time outs per half - you may not carry timeouts over to the second half.**
  15. Tie game play- off - High School Rule.

16. Game time is forfeit time, 11 players present game will begin.

17. **In the 8U & 10U Division there will not be any punts.**

- On fourth down a team may go for a first down or declare to punt only. If they choose to punt, the ball will be moved 25yds from the line of scrimmage or  $\frac{1}{2}$  the distance to the goal if it's inside the 50yd line (40yd. Line on 80yd. Field).
- Kick offs will be from the 40 yd line on a 100 yd field (30yd line on an 80yd field). (Ball cannot be moved inside the 10 yd. Line)
- In 8U only – No Onside Kicks are allowed. Team must have possession of the ball in order to be able to lose possession.

18. Player Eligibility: Players must have been on team roster and participated in 40% of regular season games to be eligible. Exception: Any player who was on the team roster for 40% of regular season games but did not meet playing qualification will be eligible if lack of play was due to injury or illness. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification of team from tournament. Important: See S.C.A.P. rule concerning C-Team players. Any player who has been waived by "their" legal department and accepted by another department will be eligible to compete in playoffs. Any player who is participating illegally with another department (does not have permission by releasing department) is ineligible to compete. First violation will result in a verbal reprimand to the department - Second violation within a 3-year period will result in termination for one year from the Palmetto Association. If infraction occurs during playoffs, illegal player will immediately be suspended from playing any further games.

19. Any violation of rules by teams or misinterpretation of rules by officials should be brought immediately to the attention of the on-site field director for a ruling. Coach should ask official for time due to rule misinterpretation(s) and the on-site director asked to come on field with coaches and officials. If coach is wrong, the team will be assessed a timeout. If coach is correct, a timeout will not be assessed and action taken to correct violation. If the team is assessed a time-out and no time-outs remain, penalty will be assessed by high school rules. \*At no time during a timeout for rules interpretations will a coach from either team go meet with the team, bring the team to the sidelines, or give strategy by shouting to the players on the field. On-site field director should make sure this does not occur. Note: If violation occurred in the game and several plays have taken place, action will be to stop violation from re-occurring. There will be no protests of games based on rule violations or interpretation of rules that occurred during a game and should have been handled at that time. It is the responsibility of coaches to know and recognize rule violations/misinterpretations. Questionable rulings will be brought forth to the Palmetto State Board for a decision based on item #10 of listed Palmetto rules/by-laws by the site field director, either that night or the following morning when time allows. Palmetto Board will decide if protest by coaches or department is warranted and whether the game will stand, be replayed, or team disqualified if violation would have impacted the outcome of the game. This must be settled before another game in that age bracket involving the teams involved in protest is played. \*Any violation of S.C.A.P. rules, or other rules concerning player eligibility will result in immediate disqualification of team in violation. Due to time constraints, only an immediate team affected by violating team can have game decision reversed. All other games will stand as played.

20. Game clock to go by middle school football rule.

21. Any coach ejected from a game must immediately leave the premises. On the following Friday or before the next scheduled game the coach and/or the coach's department's director as a representative for the coach will meet with members of the Palmetto State Board of Directors to decide either one game or permanent suspension. Any coach suspended from a game will not be allowed at the playoff site.

22. On a safety, the ball will be placed on the 25 yard line and team will then kick.

No punts due to punting rule.

23. During the playoffs, the top team on the bracket is always the home team unless host site team is located in the bottom of the bracket. Host team is always the home team.

## **Parent Spectator Rules**

The Palmetto Recreational Sports Association was created with the intent to provide a clean, conducive atmosphere for young athletes to participate in. Host sites should make every attempt to have a police or security officer present to deal w/any problems. The following are rules that each Dept. should make aware to their parents and must be obeyed by all parents, spectators and coaches in order to provide a conducive environment for the youth. These rules should be read before each game and if necessary, during the game so that all are familiar with them.

1. No fan may in any way harass or criticize officials in a manner which draws negative attention before, during, or after a ballgame. Fans observed doing this will either be given a warning or removed from facility grounds depending upon the situation. A second warning, fan must leave facility grounds immediately. Because municipal facilities fall under state, county and or municipal jurisdiction, unruly fans can and will be charged under state code 16-17-530 for public disorderly conduct. Violators can be fined up to \$100.00 or up to 30 days in jail.
2. Anyone entering a public facility/grounds under the influence of alcohol is subject to removal and/or arrest under State Code: 16-17-530.
3. Spectators/parents are not allowed on the sidelines or field during games except for a medical emergency.
4. Due to privacy laws, at no time can any parent/spectator, ask to see Birth Certificates, etc. A coach may request to see the certified roster where player's birth certificates were checked. Only onsite representatives may review birth certificates.
5. Compressed air noise devises, electric/battery operated megaphones, and whistles will not be allowed in any facility by any spectator.
6. Gate fee charges will apply daily during playoffs in order to cover referee fees, etc.

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7. All Youth Facilities are non-smoking.